

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 12-15 are pending. By this amendment Claims 1-7 and 9-11 are canceled and Claim 8 is amended to incorporate the features of Claim 11. No new matter has been added.

Before considering the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103, it is believed that a brief review of the subject matter of amended independent Claim 8 would be helpful. Amended independent Claim 8 includes a manufacturing method of a head gimbal assembly with a thin film magnetic head provided with a magnetoresistive effect element including forming a plurality of magnetoresistive effect elements on a wafer, forming a plurality of pairs of connection pads, each pair of connection pads being electrically connected across the magnetoresistive effect elements, forming a plurality of thin film short circuit patterns on a surface of the wafer, each short circuit electrically short circuiting between each pair of connection pads cutting the wafer into a plurality of bar members so that the plurality of magnetoresistive effect elements are aligned on each bar member, cutting and separating each bar member into a plurality of individual magnetic head sliders, assembling each individual magnetic head slider with a support member to form a head gimbal assembly and breaking each short circuit pattern by laser radiation during a subsequent manufacturing process of the magnetic head.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1, 4-6, 8 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. patent 5,465,186 to Bajorek, Claims 7 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bajorek, Claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bajorek in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0151858 to Hsiao and Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bajorek and Hsiao and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0034050 to Fujiwara et al. With respect to the

rejections of Claims 1-7 and 9-11, these rejections are moot. With respect to the remaining claims, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claim 11, Claim 11 now being incorporated into independent Claim 8, the Office Action recognizes that Bajorek in view of Hsiao fails to teach assembling the individual slider to a head gimbal assembly with a support member. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's assertion that Fujiwara cures the deficiencies of Bajorek and Hsiao. In particular, the mere disclosure in Fujiwara of the head gimbal assembly does not provide motivation to break each short circuit pattern by laser radiation during a manufacturing process subsequent to assembling each individual magnetic head slider with a support member to form the head gimbal assembly. None of the references, either alone or in combination, suggests this feature. As discussed in the specification, by breaking the short circuit pattern during a manufacturing process subsequent to assembling each individual magnetic head slider with a support member to form the head gimbal assembly, ESD protection can be kept until the head gimbal assembly is finished. Because neither Bajorek nor Hsiao discloses the use of a head gimbal assembly, neither can contemplate breaking the short circuit pattern manufacturing process subsequent to assembling each individual magnetic head slider with a support member to form the head gimbal assembly.

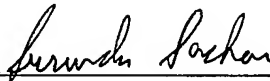
The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above and for the individual features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejections of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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